uplift of this category of people and also to give them opportunity to find their own identity. It is a question of finding their own identity. Therefore the Government must take up the responsibility itself in cooperation with the States to find a real solution. It is not a question of saying yo to the State. The question is, the Government must find out . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you do it?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Yes, on a time-bound programme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM. Sir, we are ready. We have commended a programme. I wish you will ask the hon. Member whether he will do it, Sir.

Reduction of excise and import duty on raw materials for synthetic fibre Industry

*104. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:$

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the synthetic fibre industry has urged the Central Government for the reduction of excise and import duties on raw materials required by them; and

(b) if so, what is Goverment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JIT PANJA): (a) Representations have been received from trade associations requesting for reduction in import duty on certain raw materials used in the manufature of synthetic fibres.

(b) A decision in this regard will be taken having regard to revenue and other considerations.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandrika Prasad Tripathi.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद त्रिपाठी : माननीय सभापति जी, हमारे भारतवर्ष में कच्चे माल की व्यवस्था न होने के कारण विदेशों से यह आता है और इसका उपयोग आम जनता के बीच में होने लगा है।

तो इसमें कमी करने की आवश्यकता है या उत्पादन बढ़ाने की देश में आवश्यकता है, यह तो इंडस्ट्री का मामला है लेकिन इसको कम करने के लिए शासन ने कोई नीति निर्धारित की है या नहीं?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, regarding increase of production, the Minister of Industry would be a better Minister to answer. But, as we find today, indigenous production is being done—DMT by three companies, PTA by one company, MEG by two companies and caprolactum by one company—in the country.. (*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary....You don't want? Prof. Lakshmanna.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak from your own seat.

SHRI M: S. GURUPADASWAMY: He has joined us!

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is in a hurry to join you.... (*Interruptions*)....

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, there have been several concessions given to the synthetic fibre industry and, as a result, the cotton growers and weavers have been badly hit. There had been an incident of nine weavers committing suicide and, earlier, there was the instance of some farmers committing suicide. This is because there has been undue encouragement to the synthetic fibre industry at the cost of natural fibre, namely, cotton. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will keep this in mind while giving additional facilities, concessions, etc., by way of reduction in duties.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the incidents of suicide and other difficulties faced by cotton farmers are not because of giving encouragement to the synthetic fibre industry. So far as the point raised by the honourable Member is concerned, regarding fixation of import duty various factors like indigenous production, supply and demand, prices prevailing in the foreign markets and the fluctuations thereof, are taken into consideration. Various other factors also come in, and, of course, the prices of natural fibres which are grown here, are also taken into consideration.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: In view of the hardship that is being caused to the handloom industry and also the farmers, will this be kept in mind or not? That is what I am asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will keep everything in mind.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether he is aware that while presenting the budget, the then Finance Minister had announced certain concessions and that the prices would come down? Is it not the experience of the Finance Ministry that the prices have gone up, of polyester yarn and nylon yarn, throwing the handloom and power loom sector into disarray? Secondly, the recent announcement of concessions in import duty on MEG—certain varieties—as well as increases in import duty on paraxylene, has created a distortion in the import duty structure and in the prices of the final products.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as the statement by the honourable Finance Minister while presenting the budget is concerned, we are certainly, and naturally, aware of it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are aware, but are you withdrawing it or not?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The question of withdrawal, at this satge, does not arise.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Why?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Because the companies which enjoyed these subsidies and which also assured that they would be reflected in the consumer prices, came up with certain figures, which we also verified, that the prices in the foreign markets have increased. I will give certain figures: In March 1988, DMT was US $ 560—630 per tonne. We find that in October it had gone up to US $ 726.. *(Interruptiones)*:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about nylon yarn and polyester yarn? What are you going to say on that?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The question was very simple. He should have answered it in a simple way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

दालों संबंधी आयात शुल्क में वृद्धि

*105. श्री शमीम हाशमी :
श्री मुरलीधर चन्द्रकान्त भंडारे :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने दालों संबंधी आयात शुल्क में हाल ही में वृद्धि की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी प्रतिशत वृद्धि की गई है;

(ग) इस वृद्धि के क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस वृद्धि की घोषणा के परिणामस्वरूप बाजार में दालों के मूल्य बहुत अधिक बढ़ गये हैं; और